

our territory from the enemy. This is the more gratifying because it was accomplished by troops under the command of two distinguished sons of North-Carolina, Brigadier, now Major General Hoke commanding the land forces, and Commander Cooke, with the steam-ram Albemarle. I doubt not but that you will see the propriety of rendering suitable thanks to these gallant officers and the brave officers and men under their command for the conspicuous heroism which has been rewarded by such splendid results. We cordially and gladly welcome back our fellow-citizens of that region, thus rescued from the enemy, to the embraces of their mother State, and thank them for their steadfast adherence to our cause under the tyranny and oppression of our foe. Indeed, it is gratifying to observe the very great loyalty and patriotism of that whole portion of our State within or contiguous to the enemy's lines, which has been alike subjected to his blandishments and his ravages. May the day speedily come when our jurisdiction shall again extend to the sands of the Atlantic.

Several other matters which I deem it unnecessary to specify, will thrust themselves upon your attention.

In regard to financial matters, the interesting report of the Public Treasurer is so full and complete that I am content merely to refer you to it, confident that I could not improve upon any of his suggestions, which I, in the main, endorse.

The poor, especially the indigent families of our soldiers, still demand our care. It is justly conceded that when they are not able to support themselves the State should support them in the absence of their natural protectors. I cannot, however, make any specific recommendation for their further relief, but should any plan occur to your superior wisdom, I doubt not but you will promptly act upon it. It will be very difficult for many of them to struggle through till harvest, especially in some of the counties of the west, which have been preyed upon alike by friend and foe.

Trusting that harmony will prevail in your councils, and that much good may, under God, result to the country therefrom, I close my message with an expression of readiness to co-operate with you—should it lie in my power—in the execution of the labors devolving upon you.

Z. B. VANCE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
May 17, 1864. }